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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 099503
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO, AWACS, MILI

SUBJECT: NATO, AEW

THE FOLLOWING UNCLASSIFIED LETTER IS QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

EMBASSY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
WASHINGTON, D.C.
APRIL 26, 1977

THE AMBASSADOR

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

THE GERMAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE, GEORG LEBER, HAS ASKED ME TO TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM TO YOU. THIS TELEGRAM CONTAINS THE TEXT OF A LETTER WHICH WAS WRITTEN
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TO YOU BY MINISTER LEBER ON APRIL 12, 1977. THE ORIGINAL LETTER WILL BE SENT TO THIS EMBASSY BY COURIER AND SUBMITTED TO YOUR OFFICE UPON ARRIVAL.

(COURTESY TRANSLATION)

"DEAR HAROLD:

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THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR LETTER OF MARCH 31, 1977. OUR POSITION IN PRINCIPLE CONCERNING A NATO AEW PROGRAM HAS NOT CHANGED.

AS YOU MAY HAVE DERIVED FROM MY LETTER OF APRIL 1, 1977 TO OUR ITALIAN COLLEAGUE, A COPY OF WHICH HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO YOU, I CONSIDER THE INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP THE MOST SUITABLE FORUM FOR THE ELABORATION OF A EUROPEAN POSITION. THE DEVELOPMENT OF A UNIFORM EUROPEAN VIEW WITH THE INCLUSION OF FRANCE AS WELL AS THE CLARIFICATION OF ALL PROBLEMS IN THIS CONTEXT APPEARS, AS I SEE IT, INDISPENSABLE PRIOR TO FINAL DECISION-MAKING.

I AM OF THE OPINION, TOO, THAT WE SHOULD MAKE ALL EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE ACTIVITIES IN FAVOR OF A RESTRUCTURED PROGRAM. THE BASIS FOR THESE ACTIVITIES, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE A NEW OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENT TO BE PREPARED BY THE DPC/MC, WHICH IS TO BE EVALUATED BY THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDS.

THE TERMS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MENTIONED IN MY LETTER OF FEBRUARY 23, 1977, APPLY CORRESPONDINGLY AND WITHOUT CHANGE. I WOULD APPRECIATE IF WE COULD DISCUSS THE RELEVANT PROBLEMS DURING THE NEXT DPC MEETING. FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW, A VERY TIGHT TIME SCHEDULE WILL PROBABLY NOT BE REALISTIC.

THE TREATMENT IN THE EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP CAN ALSO
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TAKE PLACE ONLY ON THE BASIS OF THE NATO PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS AND EVALUATIONS WHICH ARE TO BE SUBMITTED.

SINCERELY YOURS,

/S/ GEORG LEBER"

VERY TRULY YOURS,

VON STADEN

VANCE

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Concepts: AWACS, TEXT, AIR DEFENSE, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, WARNING SYSTEMS, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 03-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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